

MARKED-UP VERSION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 2, amend third full paragraph, beginning on line 9, as follows:

As an additional detriment, it ~~[[was]]~~ is noted that Applicant's earlier bushing was often installed incorrectly by untrained personnel, without the bracket for which it was designed. Where the bushing was assembled ~~with an incorrect~~ incorrectly, the bushing tended to slip laterally relative to a bar and a frame member risking loss of support.

On page 3, amend the sixth full paragraph beginning on line 15, as follows:

The present invention relates to a bushing member ~~includes~~ including a hinge portion enabling improved assembly and, in some embodiments, a flange and a seal design that limits moisture entry and ensures an improved fit when secured with a matching bracket compressing the bushing in a beneficial manner.

On page 4, amend the third full paragraph, as follows:

According to another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a bushing member, wherein: the first and the second flange members define respective hinge portions proximate the second side wherein a thickness of respective ~~[[the]]~~ flange members is reduced, the hinge means for reducing includes the respective hinge portions, and the hinge portions minimizing the opening force of the elastomeric member and easing the lateral access to the central opening during an insertion of the external member, whereby an opening stress on the bushing member is minimized and a risk of damaging the bushing member is reduced.

On page 5, amend the second full paragraph, as follows:

According to another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided, a bushing member, wherein: the first and the second flange members defining respective hinge portions proximate the second side wherein a thickness of respective [[the]] flange members is reduced, the hinge means for reducing including the respective hinge portions, and the hinge portions minimizing the opening force of the elastomeric member and easing the lateral access to the central opening during an insertion of the external member, whereby an opening stress on the bushing member is minimized and a risk of damaging the bushing member is reduced.

On page 6, amend the second full paragraph, as follows:

According to another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided, a bushing member, wherein: the first and the second flange members defining respective hinge portions proximate the second side wherein a thickness of respective [[the]] flange members is reduced, the hinge means for reducing including the respective hinge portions, and the hinge portions minimizing the opening force of the elastomeric member and easing the lateral access to the central opening during an insertion of the external member, whereby an opening stress on the bushing member is minimized and a risk of damaging the bushing member is reduced.

On page 7, amend the second full paragraph as follows:

According to another embodiment of the present invention, there is provided a bracket assembly, wherein: the first and the second flange members define respective hinge portions proximate the second side wherein a thickness of respective [[the]] flange members is reduced, the hinge means for reducing includes the respective hinge portions, and the hinge portions minimizing the opening force of the elastomeric member and easing the lateral access to the central opening during an insertion of the external member, whereby an opening stress on the bushing member is minimized and a risk of damaging the bushing member is reduced.

On page 12, amend the third full paragraph, as follows:

Bracket member [[4]] 2 includes a pair of smoothly rolled edges 20, 20 acting as stiffening ridges for stiffening bracket member [[4]] 2, and as positioning members for aiding an aligned engagement with corresponding flange members 14, 14. Edges 20, 20 each include strengthening and stability portions 20B, 20B on extending flange portions containing elongated holes 22, 22. Edges 20, 20 also include compression and strengthening portions 20A, 20A extending between respective stability portions 20B.

On page 12, last line continuing to page 13 at line 7, amend the full paragraph, as follows:

Edges 20, 20 may be made in any reasonable manner common to the metal-forming arts, and extend generally laterally or perpendicularly from the outer edges of bracket member [[4]] 2, and include a smooth transition from the inner or bottom surface of bracket [[4]] 2 contacting bushing 3, saddle region 15, or frame member [[4]] 2 upwardly away from bracket member [[4]] 2, as shown. Since edges 20, 20 extend away from the body of bracket member [[4]] 2 they serve to minimize a torsional or longitudinal flexing of bracket [[4]] 2 during assembly improving a secure and uniform fit between the components.

On page 13, first full paragraph, beginning on line 8, amend the paragraph, as follows:

As an additional benefit, edges 20 allow an increased amount of attachment force to be applied to bracket wings 21, 21 via bolts 6, 6 during installation. Since the outer wings 21, 21 are stiffer (with the stiffening effect of strengthening portions 20B) a user may apply additional force to bolts 6 without having the wing portions 21, 21 of bracket member 4 bend, contact frame member 4, and limit the available compressive force that may be applied to bushing member 3 to secure bar member 5.